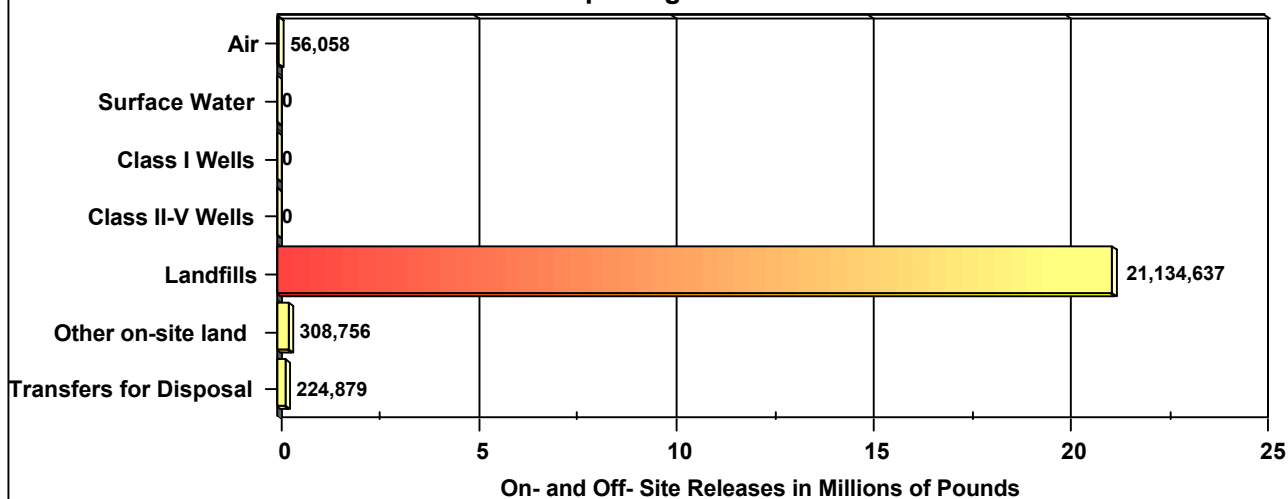




Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities: 1998 Toxics Release Inventory

U.S. EPA Region 9
Arizona, California,
Hawaii, Nevada,
and the Pacific
Islands

Hazardous Waste Disposal On & Off-site Releases in Region 9
Reporting Year 1998



Since 1986, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) has collected information on the annual release and management of toxic chemicals from manufacturing facilities. The reporting requirements were recently expanded, and the 1998 version of the Toxics Release Inventory contains the first reports from seven new industry sectors, including commercial hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities, also known as RCRA Subtitle C Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities. This fact sheet is designed to help people understand the information reported by hazardous waste disposal facilities regulated under RCRA Subtitle C.

What is a hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility regulated under RCRA Subtitle C?

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is a cradle-to grave program designed to regulate how hazardous waste is managed from the point of generation through the point of disposal. Subtitle C of

RCRA regulates the sites that treat, store, and dispose of the most hazardous of wastes.

What are the reporting requirements for hazardous waste disposal facilities regulated under RCRA Subtitle C?

The regulations require these facilities to file reports documenting release amounts and waste management practices for every toxic chemical on the regulatory list used over threshold amounts. The reporting thresholds are 25,000 pounds for chemicals that are manufactured or processed and 10,000 pounds for chemicals that are otherwise used. Chemicals received from off-site for the purpose of waste management are considered otherwise used.

What did these facilities report in 1998?

For the Nation, 205 facilities reported 282 million pounds of releases. 70% of these chemicals were interred in on-site RCRA subtitle C landfills and another

17% were sent off-site for disposal. For Region 9, 20 facilities reported 22 million pounds of releases, 97% of which were to on-site landfills. The sector reported 56 thousand pounds of air emissions in Region 9.

Why is it important to have this information about hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities?

These facilities are the legal repositories of hazardous waste, and as such, they stabilize, treat, and dispose of large amounts of material which may contain heavy metals, solvents, asbestos, and other toxic chemicals. The Toxics Release Inventory provides an accounting of the types and amounts of toxic chemicals that are actually disposed of in an on-site landfill. It also captures information on the waste management practices of the facility, and off-site releases of toxic chemicals from the site, such as air and water emissions.

Once the hazardous wastes are buried in the landfill, is it safe?

Hazardous waste disposal facilities are required to comply with RCRA to ensure that hazardous wastes are properly treated or disposed of using the best available technology. RCRA Subtitle C landfills are designed to reduce the potential for wastes to be released to the environment.

Why do some hazardous waste landfills report high disposal of asbestos?

At asbestos demolition projects, all asbestos containing building materials must be disposed of into a RCRA Subtitle C Landfill. In the past, TSD facilities have not been required to determine the actual percentage of asbestos present in the material they receive. In many instances, if the percent of asbestos in architectural debris was not known, the entire weight of the asbestos containing material was reported as friable asbestos disposed to the landfill. Many hazardous waste landfills will now require a determination of the quantity of asbestos present in the demolition material they receive. In future years, the landfills will be able to separate the weight of the building material and provide a more accurate accounting of asbestos to the Toxics Release Inventory.

Is asbestos toxic?

Breathing asbestos is very toxic to human health and there may also be risks from drinking water containing

asbestos. However, if asbestos is properly maintained and undisturbed, it should not pose a threat to health or the environment.

Where can I get general information on the Toxics Release Inventory?

You can visit our Regional Toxics Release Inventory website at:

www.epa.gov/region09/toxic/tri

You can also visit the national Toxics Release Inventory website at:

www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri

Information Hotlines:

Asbestos Program:

Asbestos and Lead Hotline
(415) 744-1690

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act:

RCRA Information Line
(415) 744-2074

Where can I receive guidance documents for Hazardous Waste Disposal facilities?

You can order EPA's EPCRA Section 313 Industry Guidance for RCRA Subtitle C TSD Facilities and Solvent Recovery Facilities (EPA 745-B-99-004) over the Internet at:

Government Printing Office

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/ or

National Center for Environmental Publications

<http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/> or
1-800-490-9198

How can I contact EPA Region 9?

We will be more than happy to answer your questions and assist you in learning more about the Toxics Release Inventory Program in Region 9.

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